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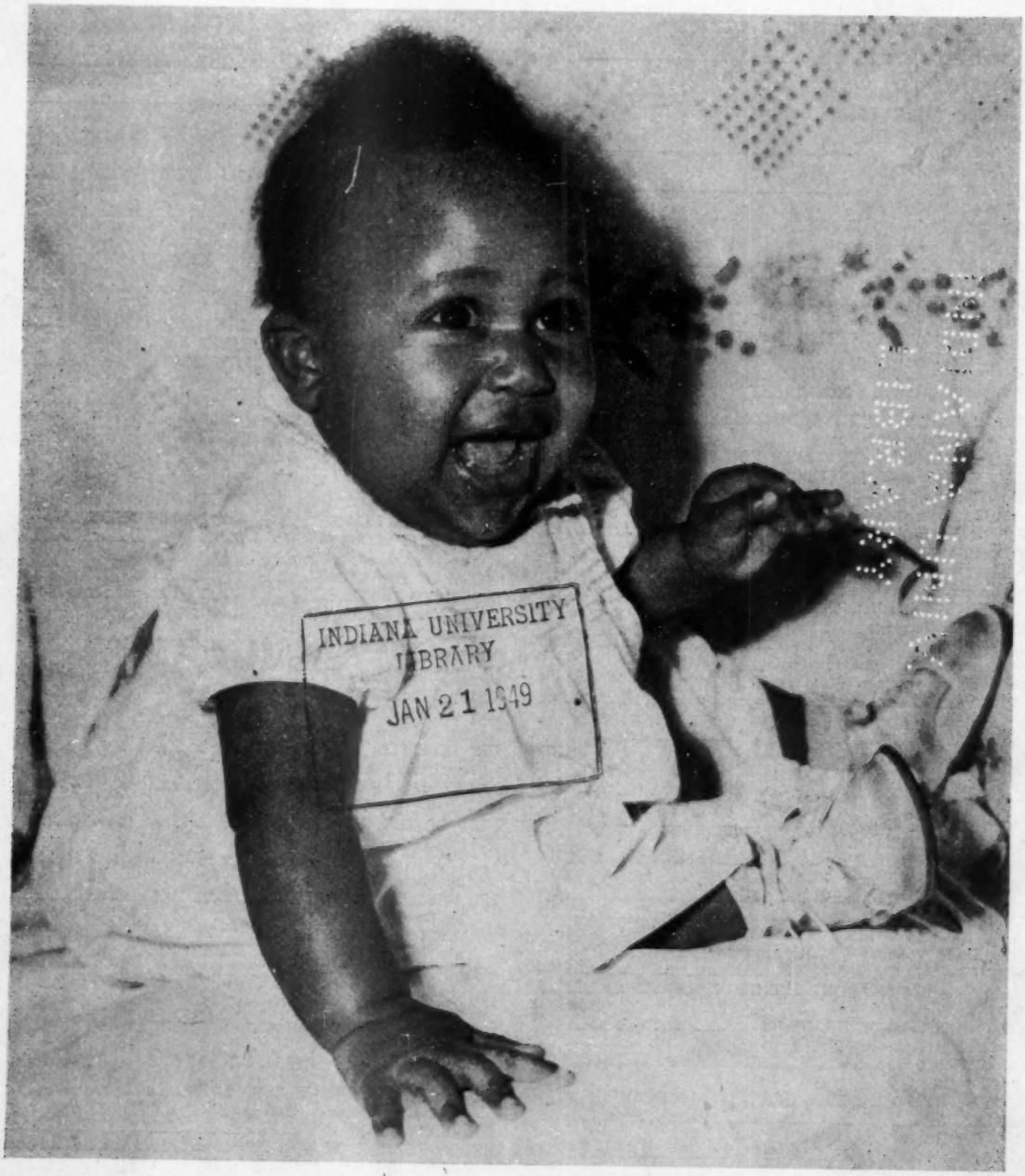

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Vol. 56, No. 1 **Whole Number 457**

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910 *and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is published monthly at* 20 *West* 40*th Street, New York* 18, *N. Y., by the Crisis Publishing Co., Inc., Dr. Louis T. Wright, president; Walter White, secretary; and Mrs. Lillian A. Alexander, treasurer. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15 *cents a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscription may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and three weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care, it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November* 2, 1910, *at the post office at New York, N. Y. under the act of* March 3, 1879.

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EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

COVER—The little lady wishing our readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year is Ernestine Henderson of Burlington, N. J., third-prize winner last November in the Burlington county branch baby popularity contest.

•

GLOSTER B. CURRENT is director of branches of the NAACP and before joining the national staff was executive secretary of the Detroit branch, NAACP. Mr. Current is a frequent contributor to our pages; he also does a column of weekly comment for *The Michigan Chronicle*.

•

BIRT S. ALLEN, who has followed closely the interesting career of Mr. Sewing, lives in Bethany, Missouri.

•

REPRODUCTIONS of the statuary (pages 15-17) of Teodoro Ramos Blanco were furnished through courtesy of George S. Schuyler, associate editor of *The Pittsburgh Courier*. Mr. Schuyler was a recent visitor in the home of Sr. Ramos in Habana, Cuba.

•

OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD, the *doyen* of American liberals, has always been in the forefront of the fight for human rights, human decency, and racial equality. He is one of the founders of the NAACP and it was he who drafted the famous Lincoln's birthday call and helped to give it wide publicity. Mr. Villard was for a while disbursing secretary of the Association as well as one of the co-operating editors on the early issues of *The Crisis*.

From 1897 to 1918, Mr. Villard was president of the New York *Evening Post*, selling the property July, 1918. And from 1918 to 1932 he was editor-owner of the New York *Nation*, one of America's leading liberal weeklies of opinion.

•

FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS ("Negro School Children on Strike," page 28) is assistant special counsel, NAACP.

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COLLEGE and SCHOOL NEWS

CONVOCATION SPEAKER *at Wilberforce state college was Dr. Alonzo F. Myers, chairman of the department of higher education at New York university. L to R, Dr. Charles H. Wesley, president; Dr. Myers; and Dr. Howard H. Long, dean of administration.*

Highlight of anuual national Negro achievement week program held at VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE November last was the awarding of a certificate of merit to Raymond J. Valentine, prominent Petersburg attorney, for his achievements and fortitude in face of handicaps. The climax of the week of activities, sponsored by Nu Psi and Delta Omega chapters of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, was a program held at the Byrne Zion Baptist church in Petersburg.

President Harry L. Daniels of the KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE student council reports twenty Kentucky state students as being included for their achievements in the 1948-49 edition of *Student Who's Who at Kentucky State College.*

Annual home-coming festivities of the local chapter of the New Farmers of America was held at the college in November, with a spectacular parade of floats.

The LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Pa.) philosophy club has stimulated a growing series of philosophical discussions among Lincoln students as well as among students and faculty members at nearby colleges. In November, the Lincoln club met with students from Gettysburg and Wilson colleges, at Gettysburg, Pa. In December, Dr. George Boas of Johns Hopkins brought a group of graduate students from his institution to the campus for a meeting with the club. Dr. Walter Fales is director of the philosophy club.

MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE celebrated American education week in November, with the principal address being delivered by Joseph F. Albright, special assistant to Carl R. Gray, Jr., administrator of veterans affairs. Mr. Albright drove home the responsibilities of physicians, dentists, and nurses as guardians of the people's health. He stressed the fact that medical science and knowledge transcend boundaries of nationality and color.

Annual pre-conference meeting of the executive committee of the Alabama student council on civil rights was held at TALLADEGA COLLEGE November 13, with adoption of the following resolutions: To ask Governor Folsom to investigate acts of violence on the university campus; to aid the NAACP in its suit against the University of Alabama; to write letters to the newspapers condemning police practices in Birmingham and other cities in the state; to campaign for increased certifictaion of Negroes for civil service positions; and to write letters

to Secretary of the Treasury Snyder praising him for his anti-jim-crow stand in connection with Mortimer Jordan, collector of internal revenue in Alabama.

The ASCCR is an interracial college student group organized in 1947 for the purpose of studying intelligently the importance of the report of the President's Civil Rights Committee and to acquaint the college people of Alabama with the implications of the committee's report.

President J. H. White of LANE COLLEGE has launched a drive for $500,000 in order to meet the immediate instructional and equipment needs of his college. The campaign began officially November 1 with organization of faculty, staff, and students committees, with specific goals for each committee. Faculty and students have already pledged $10,000 and the citizens of Jackson have been asked to donate $25,000.

With the highest average made by an African student, Hezekiah Oluwasamni of Nigeria, MOREHOUSE COLLEGE reports fifty-eight students on its honor roll for the second semester 1947-48 out of a student body of 800.

Scholarship awards for 1948-49, based on the 1947-48 averages, were given the following students: Junior class: Stephen Henderson of Key West, Fla., first; Thomas J. Walker of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., second; Calvin King of Valdosta, Ga., third; sophomore class: John Lopez of Nantucket Island, Mass., first; Robert Taylor of Sarasota, Fla., and George Haley of Pine Bluff, Ark., divided the second and third awards; freshman class: Olden Stinson of Griffin, Ga., first; Phil Parker of Manning, S. C., second; and James Mayo of Atlanta, Ga., third.

Honors day, in which tribute was paid to all honor students, was celebrated November 30 at chapel hour with a stirring address by Dr. Benjamin Mays from the subject "Is There Any Correlation Between Honors in College and Success in Life?" Brilliance alone is not enough, explained Dr. Mays; it must be matched by a good heart and sound character.

Two new publications, entitled *Climbing the Economic Ladder* and *Up, Up the Ladder,* have been recently brought out by Mrs. Helen A. Whiting of the ATLANTA UNIVERSITY school of education. The first title is intended as a study guide for teachers, principals, and supervisors of southern schools; the second, *Up, Up the Ladder,* is a companion booklet to the first and intended to bring to Negro

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Eight officials of the Library Binding Institute were visitors at Atlanta in November. They were Earl W. Browning of New York City, executive director of the Institute; Gladys Ford, also of New York, the executive secretary; James Hartell of Gardenvale, Quebec, Canada; Jean Hartell, also of Quebec; Gerarde Van Dine of West Springfield, Mass., founder of the National Library Bindery and the Library Binding Institute; Oscar Schnapel, director of the National Library Bindery of Indianapolis, Ind.; and Zack Haygood, director of the National Bindery of Atlanta.

Three musical artists of international reputation will be brought to FISK UNIVERSITY this winter under the auspices of the university concert series. The series was opened in November with Dorothy Maynor, soprano; followed by Virgil Fox, brilliant young concert organist; concluding with Gyorgy Sandor, eminent Hungarian piano virtuoso.

For the third consecutive year the university choir of one hundred voices is on the air over station WSM, Nashville, Tenn., at 10:15 p.m. every Sunday, central standard time. Founded in 1880, and the oldest musical organization in Tennessee, the Fisk choir is made up of undergraduate students. None of them receives any academic credit for his work in the organization. They are in the choir because they love choral singing.

The race relations department of the American Missionary Association at Fisk has devised a yardstick for measuring trade union democracy and unity. "What's the Union Worth to You? What Are You Worth to It?" is a quiz form posing a series of questions to the individual trade unionist or potential unionist. His answers add up to a two-scale rating: one, of union policy and program; the other of membership participation and responsibility.

Among the artist to appear recently at SPELMAN COLLEGE were Mary Hutchinson, actress, and Mattiwilda Dobbs, soprano. Miss Hutchinson appeared December 11 in a program of "Shakespeare's Heroines." Miss Dobbs' recital, given in the First Congregational church in a program sponsored by the organ fund, is her third Atlanta recital since her graduation from Spelman in 1946.

Seventeenth season for the Atlanta university players opened on December 3-4 in Howe Memorial Hall of Spel-

WILBERFORCE STATE COLLEGE *co-eds, L to R: Susan Stamps, graduate of Rosenwald high school, Harlan, Kentucky; Evelyn Louise Walker, graduate of Lincoln high, Kansas City, Missouri; Gloria Clarice Owens, graduate of Lincoln high, Kansas City, Missouri; Bernice Jackson, graduate of Rosenwald high, Harlan, Kentucky; and Betty Jane, graduate of North college high, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

man with the famous old comedy, *Fashion.*

Work on the $400,000 library at LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Mo.) has now reached the above-ground stage despite work losses due to bad weather. The building is scheduled for completion September 1, 1949.

One of the five Negro agriculture engineers in the United States, Ambrose B. Lewis, is among the recent additions to the Lincoln faculty. Born in Manassas, Va., the 28-year-old engineer earned his B.S. degree from Virginia State and his M.S. from Cornell. He taught for a year at Virginia State before accepting the post at Lincoln.

Dean Charles M. Hoard of the university was a speaker in November before the community civic organization of Missouri university. Annual pre-Christmas program of the department of music featured the 85-voice university choir in Handel's *The Messiah.*

New editor of the official organ, *Journal of Education,* of the Missouri State Teachers Association is M. C. Langford, assistant professor of education at Lincoln. The twenty-two-member executive committee of the Missouri council of UNESCO met on the university campus for the second time in November. A branch of the international organization, the state group does its part toward the establishment of permanent peace.

Eighty-third founders' day was celebrated January 9.

The eighty-third anniversary of SHAW UNIVERSITY was observed November 19, with Dr. Dennis Branch, of Newport, Tenn., delivering the main address. Annual founders' day greetings were delivered by President Robert Daniel; C. C. Spaulding, chairman of the executive committee of the board of trustees, made remarks.

Shaw, the oldest Baptist college for Negroes, was founded in 1865 by Dr. Henry Martin Tupper soon after his discharge from the Union Army. The institution was named after Elijah Shaw, a resident of Wales, Mass., who contributed largely to the erection of its first building.

Harry Gil-Smythe, head of the department of music, was presented in a piano recital December 12 at the Winston-Salem Teachers college in a concert sponsored by the local graduate chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi. Enola Laws, soprano and director of the Shaw women's choir, was presented in concert December 7 in Times Hall, New York City. Shaw players, under the direction of Mrs. Ethlynne Thomas made their first offering of the season in Marquand's *The Late George Apley,* December 3-4. A three-day service, directed by Dr. O. T. Binkley of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., designed to explain the principles of the Baptist denomination was held in December. The danger signals of the times, warned Dr. Binkley, are emptiness of soul, the cult of cruelty and distrust.

Ten Shaw students have been named

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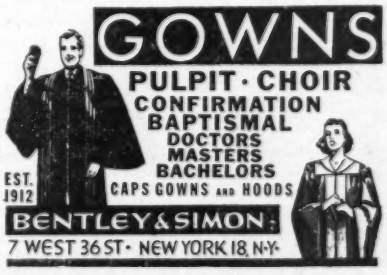

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for inclusion in the current *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.*

Dr. Herman G. Canady, professor of psychology at WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE, delivered in November, 1948, a series of lectures before the students and faculty of Sarah Lawrence college, New York. General subject of his lectures was "The Contributions of Anthropology to Psychology," a description of the shift in the point of view of psychologists from the individualistic and the biological to a more general approach to the development of human personality. Dr. Canady also contributed an article under the same title to the October 16, 1948, issue of *School and Society.*

Among recent visitors at the college have been Dr. Alonzo F. Myers, chairman of the department of higher education, New York university; George Streator, New York Times reporter; and Mrs. Fannie Cook, author of *Mrs. Palmer's Honey.*

Dr. Charles C. Hawkins, director of department of health, has been called to Washington to serve as consultant to the National Commission on Safety Education of the National Education Association. Dr. Hawkins is an outstanding expert in accident prevention. John F. Matheus, head of the department of romance languages, was elected in November vice-president of the West Virginia Association of Teachers of French. National home economics day, established in honor of Ellen H. Richards, a pioneer in the field, was observed by the college December 8, with special activities and an informal reception.

The New York Times of November 9-10 quoted at considerable length the views of President John W. Davis on Negro higher education.

Richard S. Grossley has been promoted from instructor to assistant professor of phychology in the department of education at LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY. Born in Gloster, Miss., Professor Grossley received his B. S. degree from Alcorn college in 1911; his M. A. from New York university in 1937, and six years later he won a doctorate from the same institution. For thirteen years he held the post of executive secretary of the American Teachers Association. He has also acted as state director of Negro economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture; member and consultant, City-wide Committee on Harlem; and member of the Allied Civic Association of Queens. He was at one time president of Delaware State college, Dover, Delaware.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor of The Crisis:

The October issue of The Crisis was interesting as always. But not entirely fair, I thought, in that your "Examination of the Records of the Men who want to be President" did not include a record of Norman Thomas. This omission irked me considerably. I hasten to add that it did not anger me to write "cancel my subscription," for the NAACP is on the whole too valuable an organization for its members to withdraw their support because of a mistake made by your editorial staff. I do, however, want to protest against your discrimination against the Socialist party.

The Socialist party has always believed in the true brotherhood of man. It is the Socialists' deep conviction of principle, not a political strategem, that included in the 1948 platform a section entitled, "Establish Racial Equality." This plank is by far the most forthright statement on race in any party platform. I enclose a copy for your perusal and, I hope, publication in *The Crisis.*

The Socialists, and our presidential candidate Norman Thomas, have consistently championed human rights. We stress *human* rather than *Negro* because we see no distinction. We do advocate some measures that will insure racial minorities enjoying the human rights which the white race has denied them. We do this in simple justice, not because we are angling for the "Negro Vote," which has been a political football. In general, we believe in stressing the basic similarity of the needs, hopes, desires of all groups of the human family rather than stress the differences between them. Our membership, and our meetings, and meetings Normans Thomas addresses, are unsegregated as a matter of course, not just for public fanfare. Most Socialists I know belong to the NAACP—not to infiltrate it, but to help it, because we are in sympathy with its objectives. When in our local and national Socialist meetings we nominate and vote for our officers and candidates and elect a colored person we do so on the basis of his individual fitness for the job, not because "that ought to pull the colored vote."

Perhaps from your point of view we underplay the racial angle. Yet I have been so nauseated by the overplayment of it by the breast beating "I'm-the-Negroes'-Friend" politicians during election year that I pondered long before I wrote this letter. My decision to write it and ask you to publish it was based finally on this thought: It is important even after election for colored and white members of NAACP to know through "The Crisis" the Socialist stand. Citizens who are interested in truly wiping out "second class citizenship" should ponder deeply the desirability and practibility of their supporting, joining, and working with the truly democratic Socialist political party, whose racial policy is not a bargaining point but a principle of integrity.

MRS. ELIZABETH LILLY

Wilmington, Delaware
October 27, 1948

Editorials

HAPPY NEW YEAR

DURING the last days of December Dutch troops, using guns, tanks, and planes, all made in America, violated the truce with the Indonesian Republic and in a matter of days had routed the poorly-armed new government and captured its civil and military leaders.

Despite American protests and United Nations directives to cease and retreat, coupled with the American threat to withdraw Marshall Plan aid from Holland, the Dutch have declared their intention to hold their former colony by force of arms.

We shall see what we shall see in this new year. The eyes of all Asia are upon the Indonesian situation. Does the Western world mean what is says about self-determination, independence, freedom? Generations of Dutchmen have fattened upon Indonesia. Rich and powerful dynasties (not the least among them the House of Orange) have been erected upon the backs of the Indonesian people. The vast wealth of their land has been siphoned away at enormous profit while they have been tossed merely the crumbs that any overseer grudgingly allows his "hands."

The Indonesians believe this has gone on long enough. They want to be free. They can't go back and collect for the last 200 years—even for 1 per cent of the wealth that has been taken from them—but they will settle for freedom now to go their own way, be their own men.

It will bear repeating that the League of Nations died with its decision on Ethiopia. The fate of our United Nations, indeed, of the Western world, may hinge on whether the Dutch can be made to see the light on Indonesia.

PROTESTANTS CONDEMN SEGREGATION

FORTHRIGHT condemnation of racial segregation was made in a statement adopted December 3 by the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America at its convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. The pertinent paragraph in the excellent and detailed pronouncement declares:

"Since these [human] rights cannot be obtained under a system of racial segregation, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America reaffirms its renunciation of the pattern of segregation as unnecssary and undesirable, and a violation of the gospel of love and human brotherhood. As proof of their sincerity, the churches must work for a non-segregated church and a non-segregated society."

These are plain, bold words from the largest organized federation of Protestant churches in America. They lay down a policy and point to a goal toward which the separate denominations and their constituent local churches should strive.

This resolution, coupled with Catholic action taken by that church in recent years, means that two great faiths which touch many Negroes in their religious life, are now working against racial segregation. The Jewish faith, which does not touch many Negroes, has long been opposed, in religious principle, to racial segregation.

Beginnings have been made, in some cases good, solid beginnings. Some growth has been achieved, but, as might be expected in such a complex problem, much remains to be done. As an earnest, the Methodists might examine into the Protestant anti-Negro policy at Northwestern university in Evanston, Ill.; the Catholics might inquire into the adamantine policy of racial segregation in the parochial schools of Chicago (in contrast to the integration in such schools in the "southern" city of St. Louis); and the Jewish religious leaders might admonish again the landlords and merchants in their congregations who deal intimately with many Negroes in urban communities.

The principal benefit of the Cincinnati statement is that it joins the Protestants to other groups that have brought the evil of segregation out into the open where it has always belonged. The President's Committees on Civil Rights and Higher Education both condemned segregation, the former group calling for its abolition "from American life." The U. S. armed services have reached (for them) a revolutionary point where segregation as a policy is discussed and debated, with the Navy declaring that segregation in that service is no longer the official policy.

The Federal Council statement underlines the truism that there can be no brotherhood and no equal citizenship within the framework of racial segregation. Those who offer equality *with* segregation are proffering a loaf whose crust may be brown and beautiful, but whose substance is sawdust.

"YOU CAN'T VOTE!"

GEORGIA has announced a plan which it is estimated will bar about 80 per cent of the Negro voters in the state from casting their ballots in any election. According to its spokesman, House Speaker Fred Hand, the Talmadge plan will be presented to the Talmadge legislature which meets January 10. In brief, it provides for wiping out all existing registration lists, holding a new state-wide registration of voters with emphasis on an "educational test" for voters.

The Herman Talmadge forces had planned to use the South Carolina plan of a "private club" primary to bar Negroes, but the ruling of Federal Judge J. Waties Waring last year that such a system is unconstitutional, and the upholding of that ruling by the higher courts forced Georgia to look elsewhere to maintain its white primary. It looked to neighboring Alabama which had adopted what is known as the Boswell amendment, designed frankly to reduce the number of Negro voters through rigidly applied "educational tests." The Boswell amendment is now being challenged in the courts.

There are no signs that Georgia Negroes (or any Negroes in the entire South) are frightened by the Talmadge plan. South Carolinians fought the white supremacy bloc up to the U. S. Supreme Court and beat them. Mississippi Negroes learned the Constitution by heart and recited it so glibly in such great numbers that whites charged Negro teachers had "plotted" against the plan by teaching the constitution thoroughly to all and sundry.

Even violence and murder have not deterred colored citizens. The Talmadge forces recognize that the killing of Isaac Nixon, because he dared to vote, and the beating up and running out of town of D. V. Carter, his wife and ten children for carrying Negroes to the polls will not check the determination to vote. If they thought intimidation would do the trick, they would never bother with a new registration list.

The truth of the matter is that Negroes are going to vote in increasing numbers in the South—even in Mississippi—and most whites know it, including Herman Talmadge. He is just trying to postpone the day.

Exit Jim-Crow Schools in New Jersey

By Gloster B. Current

An analysis of NAACP and state "FEPC" activity in the fight in New Jersey to put an end to segregated schools

FROM a state which two years ago had segregated schools scattered over eighteen counties, New Jersey has become, today, one of the outstanding examples of what may be accomplished in the North to speedily wipe out jim-crow school systems. The saga of the elimination of segregation in the schools in the Garden State indicates that this phenomenon did not just happen. Rather, this change in policy was brought about by persistent effort on the part of the NAACP branches and the New Jersey state conference of the Association. The adoption of a new state constitution coupled with a vigorous enforcement policy by the State Division Against Discrimination, the "FEPC" of New Jersey, greatly accelerated the demise of segregated practices.

Efforts of the NAACP to end segregated schools in the state go back several years before there was such legal and popular support of non-segregation as exists today. In 1944 the Trenton branch of the NAACP won a suit against the local board of education and forced the admittance of Negro students to a junior high school. The policy of the City of Trenton had been to send all colored children to a central junior high school known as the Lincoln school. White children were sent to schools within their district. Justice Newton H. Porter ruled that it was unlawful for the board of education to exclude children from any public school because of their color.

At the Cincinnati conference of the Association in 1946, the NAACP reaffirmed its traditional policy of opposition to segregated schools and educational inequalities, and resolved to carry on a broad program to eliminate such practices throughout the entire country. As part of a program to accomplish this aim, the national office was urged to undertake a nationwide survey of educational facilities from the elementary grades through the graduate and vocational schools.

In the fall of 1946, the department of branches assigned Miss Noma Jensen, then assistant field secretary and now on the staff of Roosevelt college in Chicago, to conduct a survey of the New Jersey schools. This state was selected because there was nothing in the law which made segregated schools mandatory, and there were indications that segregation could be eliminated through concerted effort by the branches and the state conference.

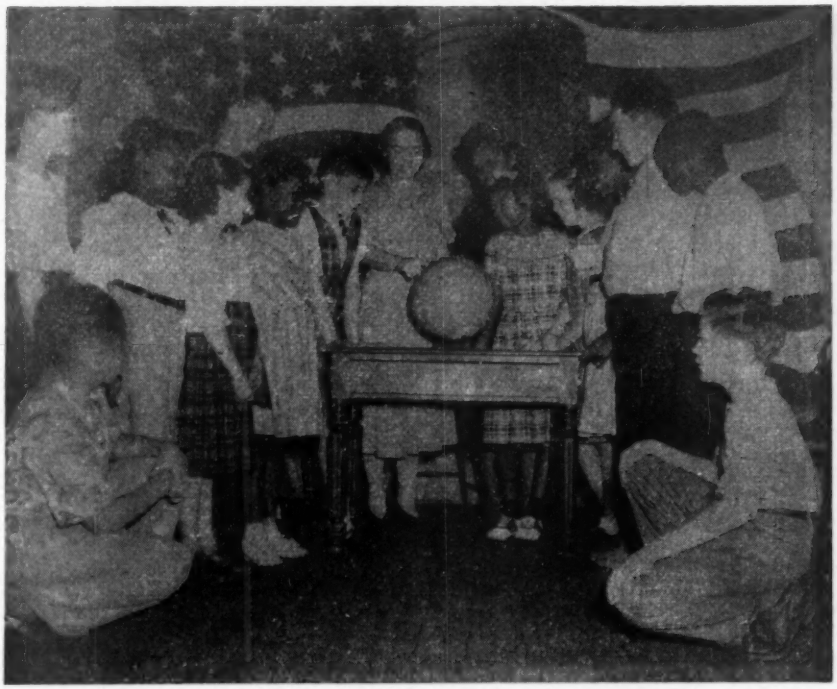
Jensen Survey

The survey, which covered 52 communities in 18 counties, found the practice of segregation widespread. Some of the mainifestations were: loose boundary lines, generally favorable to white children as a result of gerrymandering of school districts; unequal facilities: for example, white schools with lunchrooms, Negro schools without; facilities in Negro schools in poor condition; and Negro teachers in all-colored schools.

STEVENS SCHOOL, *Camden, N. J., formerly an all-Negro school, now has 240 white and 60 Negro pupils. The teacher is Mrs. Sadie Taylor; Josiah Conwell, the Negro principal, is standing near the door.*

In conferences with school officials, Miss Jensen received such stock answers to her query of why segregated schools were being maintained as: "Because Negroes asked for them," or "This was the only way Negro teachers could be hired." She observed that the teaching load in the majority of segregated schools was three times that in the white schools; that Negro principals and teachers seemed afraid that integration would cause them to lose their jobs and were thus helping to perpetuate segregation in several towns. The survey also disclosed that many Negro parents were unaware of their right to send their children to the nearest school instead of to an all-Negro school in the community.

Upon completion of the survey the branches were instructed to press for elimination of segregation by petitions to the governor, the state board of education, local councils of the "FEPC," county superintendents of schools, members of the state legislature and the public. The state conference advised branches to instruct parents not to enroll their children in the jim-crow schools the following fall.



BEST EXAMPLE *of integration in Camden is the Fetter school. With a principal who believes in integration, this formerly all-white school now enrolls 200 Negro and 310 white pupils. Every class, as this fifth grade class in geography, is completely integrated.*

Long Branch Takes Action

One of the first NAACP branches to follow the recommendations of the state conference was the Long Branch unit. Segregated schools had existed in this small manufacturing town, which is also a summer resort, since 1882. During her investigation of the Long Branch schools, Miss Jensen unearthed the following item in the report of the secretary of the local board of education for the year 1884-85:

> Soon after the close of our last scholastic year, by order of the Board, a lot was purchased and a building erected to accomodate a colored school which, from the early fall, has been in successful operation until the close of the present school year.
>
> At first some of the colored people, who are ever sensitively jealous of their rights as "American citizens of African descent," insisted on sending their children to the white school. Finding that there was no opposition to this on the part of teachers or trustees, and that the colored school was not intended to create a distinction of race, class nor color, other than that ineradicably established by nature, the opposition gradually and quietly gave way, and the later months of the year were marked with some success.

Under the leadership of Stanford Welcker, a war veteran, the branch began a fight against segregated schools in July, 1947. The school board was asked to establish a district for the then undistricted Liberty school. This elementary school, located in the heart of the Negro residential section, was totally colored and had an all-Negro faculty. White children living in the area attended other schools. Negro students could, however, also attend other schools, as some did, although by custom, most Negro parents sent their children to the Liberty school.

The school board promised the branch to create a five-year plan for integrating the Liberty school and, as a first step, promised to assign two white teachers that fall, if two teachers would volunteer. The attitude of the NAACP is best summed up by Welcker when he wrote the national office, "Our job is to kill jim-crow as soon as possible. Why wait five years when it can possibly be done this year?"

The parents of children in Long Branch and Fair Haven, a neighboring town, were urged by the branch to register in the integrated schools in their communities at a mass meeting called a week before school opened in September. At the meeting, speakers from the State Parent-Teachers Association, and the state "FEPC," condemned such conditions in the Liberty street school as the lack of an auditorium, lunchroom, gymnasium and adequate classrooms; and urged parents to transfer their children to other schools. The principal of the Asbury Park, Bangs avenue school, Mr. Hyland Moore, told of the successful integration of pupils at his school in 1946, which had been accomplished without conflict.

As a result of NAACP activity, the enrollment at the Liberty school dropped 60 percent on the opening day of school. Negro students enrolled at the white schools in their neighborhood. Faced with a *fait accompli*, the local school board met and districted the Liberty street school. A typical zoning arrangement was drawn up which would have forced most of the Negro pupils to return to the Liberty school. Transfers to their old school were issued to 95 colored children. At the same time, 35 white pupils were also transferred to Liberty school. The white parents organized a School Betterment Association and investigated the Liberty Street School. They found to be true what Negroes had been saying all along; namely, that the school was inferior, its location a health hazard, because of its proximity to the Jersey Central gas plant; its ventilative system outmoded and its lunchroom, clinical, and classroom facilities completely inadequate. Transfers were to become effective September 18, but on that day only 5 of the Negro pupils out of 95 returned to Liberty—none of the white children.

The school board was forced by irate white and Negro parents to allow the children to remain where they had enrolled on opening day. The NAACP

542340

Burlington Times

A PRIZE-WINNING FLOAT *of the James F. Cooper School, Burlington, N. J., in the school division of the Halloween parade.*

and the School Betterment Association joined hands and appeared before the school board on October 7, asking that the school be closed. Although the board did not close the school, it did promise the parents and the NAACP to bring the school up to par by September, 1948, or to close it. A review of the situation in Long Branch a few weeks ago disclosed that most of the promises of the board have been kept.

The Long Branch unit by its aggressive action helped wipe out segregated schools in the nearby towns of Fair Haven and Pine Brook. In Fair Haven, on opening day, only three Negro children showed up at the all-Negro Fiske school. Fifty-six transferred to the integrated Willow street school. The two colored teachers, formerly at Fiske school were transferred to teaching the second and eighth grades at the integrated Willow Street school.

While integration was being achieved in Long Branch under the hammering of the NAACP, the Pine Brook Parent Teachers Association informed the branch that the school board and the PTA were working together to abolish segregation rather than to be forced to by the Association. When the fall term began in 1947, the kindergarten and the first three grades of the all-colored school were integrated at the Tinton Falls school. The school board promised to build six new classrooms to complete the program of integration.

The efforts of the Long Branch NAACP proved conclusively that when Negro and white parents see that their interests are identical it is easy to get them together. During the summer, while the branch had been pressing for integration, anonymous notes were allegedly distributed throughout the community by the Ku Klux Klan. But, when the white parents found themselves forced to send their children to the inferior school, they immediately joined with the Negro parents, and the issue became one of securing equal facilities for all pupils.

Four-Year Camden Fight

Jim-crow in the Camden schools was more difficult to eliminate than in Long Branch. Of Camden's 2,330 Negro pupils, 1,454 attended the all-Negro schools. The others attended mainly the junior and senior high schools, which were mixed.

From 1944 to 1948, the branch fought to eliminate segregation from its school system and to secure the employment of Negro teachers in the secondary schools. After a ruling in 1945 by the state attorney general, Walter Van Riper, that the New Jersey fair employment practices statute applied to employment in public schools and governmental agencies as well as in private industry, the branch proceeded along two lines: one, to eliminate segregated schools through the correction of discriminatory zoning and a program of education of parents to send their children to the nearest school in the district; two, to urge qualified Negro teachers to apply for jobs in secondary schools and to present the case of those discriminated against to the state "FEPC."

At the suggestion of the NAACP, many Negro children transferred out of the seven colored schools at the beginning of the September, 1946, term. In 1947 the branch intensified its campaign of encouraging parents to transfer children. The constant pressure of the branch elicited several editorials from the Camden *Courier*, the City's only daily paper, reviewing the issue of segregation versus non-segregation in the schools.

Most of the NAACP action program was aimed at the local board of education. The program was difficult to effect because of almost complete opposition from the superintendent of schools, Dr. Leon N. Neulen. Although the branch worked diligently under the capable leadership of Dr. Ulysses S. Wiggins, president, it was not until 1948, when the New Jersey state constitution was revised, that the branch was able to succeed in getting rid of segregation and discrimination in the school system.

When the new constitution went into effect in January, Dr. Wiggins and a committee from the branch appeared before the board of education and asked that segregation as a policy be ended by September, 1948; and that Negro teachers be integrated throughout the system. The board created a committee on integration, but took no action toward prompt dissolution of the segregated setup. In February, the branch again urged passage of a resolution against segregation, but no member of the board, including the Negro member, Albert Flourney, would sponsor it. About the same time, the application of Josiah Conwell, principal of the Mt. Vernon school, one of the all-Negro schools, for the position of principal of the Sharp school, located in a white neighborhood, was ignored by the superintendent.

Representatives of the branch kept a close watch over the board, attended every meeting and demanded that steps be taken toward integration. The board was supplied with reports on the successful integration programs of other cities in the state. At one meeting, trying to circumvent the demands of the NAACP, the board even made an attempt to have the State Commissioner of Education approve a plan of gradual integration which, if inaugurated, would have taken at least seven years to complete.

At its July meeting, the board finally adopted a resolution ending segregation, containing the following provi-

sion, described by the NAACP as a "joker":

> . . . if application is made and approved prior to September 15, 1948, any pupil may continue in the school said pupil may have been attending until they have completed the elementary grades housed in that building, subject to housing facilities being available.

The NAACP protested this provision so vigorously that the board of education agreed to reconsider it at a special meeting on August 9. Prior to this meeting, the NAACP advised each member of the board that unless compliance with the state constitution was forthcoming, legal steps would be taken. At this meeting, however, no action was taken. Two nights later, the executive committee of the branch instructed its attorney, Robert Burk Johnson, to begin legal proceedings. Twelve branch executive committee members, as taxpayers, signed a complaint asking that state funds be withheld from local schools until integration was accomplished.

Hearing of the proposed action, the board of education called a special meeting by telegram and removed the "joker" from its resolution, much to the disgust of the superintendent, Mr. Neulen, who for the past four years has acted repeatedly as a brake on the program to achieve integration. The action of the board forced the superintendent to recommend the closing of two schools that were formerly all-Negro and the establishment of new boundary lines where heretofore there had been overlapping white and Negro school districts.

Results of Integration

Two of the former all-Negro schools, Bergen and Mt. Vernon, are now closed. In the remaining five former all-Negro schools, the following table presents the extent of integration:

TABLE I

INTEGRATION IN FORMER ALL-NEGRO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

School	*Total Student Body*	*White Students*	*Negro Students*	*Teacher Integration*
Whittier	600*	12	586	All Negro Teachers
Sumner	450	1	449	All Negro Teachers
Powell	235	10	225	All Negro Teachers
Catto	60	8	52	All Negro Teachers
Stevens	240	60	180	1 White Teacher 10 Negro Teachers

* All figures approximate.

Table II shows the amount of integration achieved in the former all-white elementary schools:

TABLE II

INTEGRATION IN FORMER ALL-WHITE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

School	*Total Student Body*	*White Students*	*Negro Students*	*Teacher Integration*
Fetters	500*	300	200	10 White Teachers 8 Negro Teachers
Mickle	500	400	100	14 White Teachers 3 Negro Teachers
Cramer	All White	All	None	2 Negro Teachers
Broadway	All White	All	None	2 Negro Teachers
Parkside	All White	All	None	1 Negro Teacher
Starr Special	Mixed	.....	.....	1 Negro Teacher
Liberty	200	160	40	6 White Teachers 1 Negro Teacher 1 Negro Principal

* All figures approximate.

It would appear from the tables that more Negro pupils have been integrated into the former all-white schools than white pupils into the all-Negro schools. In several instances colored teachers are teaching at schools which still have an all-white student body, because of geographical location. The research director of the board of education is a Negro, which indicates employment of Negro personnel on the higher administrative levels.

One of the arguments used against integration in some areas of the United States is that friction between the races would result. This was proved baseless in both the Camden and Long Branch experiences. Integration was achieved in Camden with a negligible amount of friction despite the long controversy which had preceded the move. In one area Polish parents reportedly refused to send their children to the Sumner school, one of the former all-Negro schools. This school is the only remaining one with an all-Negro student body. The Polish parents were given special permission to send their children to the school which they had previously attended.

As a result of the integration program to date, Dr. Wiggins reports that more than 20 of approximately 80 Negro teachers have been transferred to mixed or all-white schools. Despite the success of integration, the superintendent of schools has made many attempts to hamper the program. The branch lists some of the more flagrant acts of the administration as follows:

Only one white teacher in the entire city has been transferred to a formerly all-Negro school. This is due to the fact that white teachers have been asked to volunteer for transfers, while Negro teachers were transferred by the superintendent. The branch has protested this practice to the State Superintendent of Schools.

Issuance of "phony" guardianship papers to allow white pupils to go to all-white schools by using fictitious addresses in the districts. The branch is investigating this practice.

In the Sumner school district the superintendent is allegedly allowing about 60 white pupils who belong in Sumner to go to Bensall, a white school which they previously had attended. The NAACP has filed a petition with the State Board of Education protesting this practice.

(Continued on page 29)

Building a Bank: Douglass State

By Birt S. Allen

How a man's faith and thrift built a bank

THIS is not a story of a great financial achievement, although the institution promises success. Neither is it a story of singular accomplishment in a social or political way, although the principal described herein is well known locally. It is a simple story of a colored man who saw the needs of his fellow men and out of this need built a business institution in the sublime faith that it will serve the race to which it is dedicated.

Kansas City, Kansas, situated where the Kaw river flows into the Missouri, is now the largest city in the state. It has seventeen banks while much larger Kansas City, Missouri, lying directly across the Missouri river from it has only twenty-three. A survey made a few years ago reported that, with one exception, Kansas City, Kansas, had more banks in proportion to its population than any other city of comparable size in the United States. It is not within the province of this report to discuss how this unusual situation came about, but when it was rumored a few years ago that the city was to have another bank, people began to ask why. There was just one reason—Henry W. Sewing.

Mr. Sewing, now 56 years of age, born and reared in poverty in the little town of Bremond, Texas, came to Kansas City some twenty-five years ago. As a youth he had worked at anything he could get to do, and for several summers had been employed in the peach orchards of his community at 40¢ a day. Just how he managed to obtain a college education, he can now hardly tell, but in spite of handicaps he succeeded and received an A.B. degree from Tillotson college. Armed with this credential and an ardent desire to get ahead in life, he set out for the North and in due time reached Kansas City, Kansas, a mecca then, as now, for colored people. He worked successively at the Armour Packing Company, the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and a machine supply firm. He was young and glad to do any work available.

Finally, he got a chance to use his learning. Having a flair for figures, he was appointed head of the mathematics department of Western university, where he taught for three years. Then he took up life insurance, working principally among Negroes. In 1934 he discontinued the insurance business and, with some associates, organized the Sentinel Loan and Investment Company. The new bank he has organized is in a way an outgrowth of this company.

He had faith that a Negro bank would do much for Negro thrift and business. After discussing the matter with experienced business associates, he told his story to the banking department of the state of Kansas. To B. A. Welch, banking commissioner, goes much credit for the friendly interest of the banking department. "We are convinced", he stated, "that the promoters of this bank are far above the average of their race, and they realize the responsibility of making good." With a charter the biggest hurdle was cleared, and the rest is now history.

The capital stock of $125,000, surplus $25,000, and undivided profits of $18,500 were rapidly subscribed and paid in by the hundred or more Negro stockholders. And out of the blue sky came a telephone call from a colored woman who asked to be the initial depositor. She deposited $1,000. At the dedication of the bank on August 24, 1947, the day before the opening, a business firm in the city promised a first-day deposit of $25,000, and there were many for $10,000 and over. Business and banking institutions in the city and its environs have been very coperative. Somehow, Henry Sewing's faith in a bank was beginning to bear fruit.

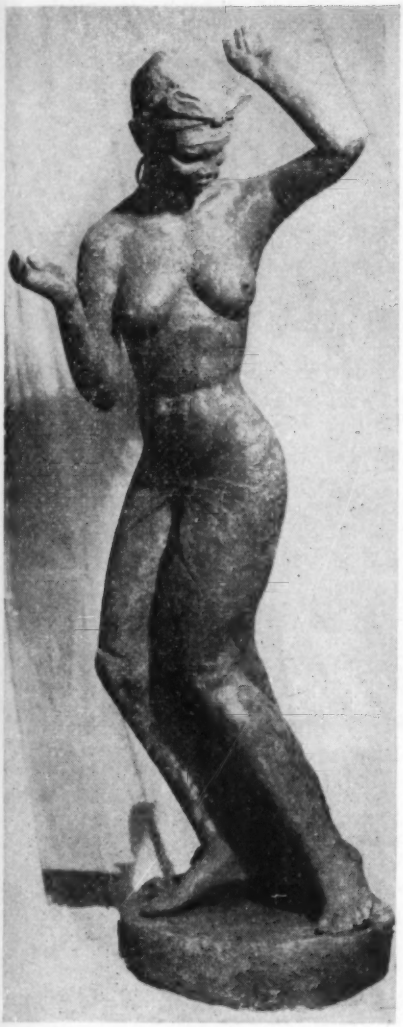
Officers of the bank are Dr. William A. Love, chairman of the board; Henry Sewing, president; James H. Browne, vice president; and Ephraim C. Ewing, cashier. The tellers and bookkeepers, Mrs. Juanita Goodman, Miss Geraldine

(Continued on page 29)

PRESIDENT *Henry Sewing (far right) standing in front of the new Douglass State building with (L to R) James H. Browne, vice-president, and Ephraim C. Ewing, Cashier.*

Hodges

Sculpture of Teodoro Ramos Blanco



LA RUMBA
Rumba Rhythm

JILMA
Carved directly from stone

Note on the Rumba and Plácido

THE *rumba*, symbolized at the left in Ramos' "Rumba Rhythm," originated among the Negroes of Camagüey and Oriente provinces, in what may be called the underbelly of Cuba, many, many years ago. Strictly an Afro-Cuban rural dance, the *rumba* was not known even in Habana prior to 1917, where it is said to have been introduced by "Habana Lily." It become popular in this country circa 1929. However, our enthusiasm for the *rumba* presents a paradox. What we Americans dance for the *rumba*, and misspell *rhumba*, it really a *son* (another Afro-Cuban dance) stepped up in tempo. "Without fear of exaggeration we can say that the typical Cuban *rumba* is not known abroad," wrote the late Cuban musicologist Emilio Grenet; ". . . that creature of our robust virility is diluted and emasculated . . ."

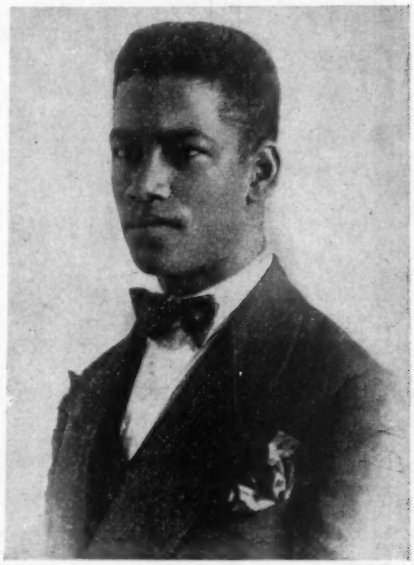
An exhibition rather than a social dance, the *rumba* is performed by a man and a woman, usually professionals; the dancers perform separately throughout most of the dance, each alternately taking the spotlight; with the girl doing much of her dancing backside to the audience. Many of the actions of the dance are really depictions of such simple farm tasks as washing clothes, climbing a rope, or shoeing a mare.

Plácido (portrait-bust on page 16), one of the tragic figures of Cuban literary history, was born in Matanzas, Cuba, on March 18, 1809, and shot, along with ten of his comrades, in that same city on June 28, 1844, for his activity in the Cuban underground independence movement. The illegitimate offspring of a Spanish-dancer mother, Concepción Vásquez, and a mulatto comb-maker father, Diego Ferrer y Matoso, Plácido was abandoned by his mother soon after birth to an orphanage, the Real Casa Cuna, in Habana. The father soon removed the infant, placing it in the hands of its paternal grandmother.

"Our Plácido," as the Cubans call him, wrote lyrics to rank with the best in Spanish literature. Aurelio Mitjans says: "The first poet to appear in Cuba endowed with boldness of expression and warm lyric power since [José María] Heredia is the poet Gabriel de la Concepción Valdés, known as Plácido in Europe and America."

Baptismal name of the poet was Diego Gabriel de la Concepción, the Valdés being added by custom to all foundlings out of respect for the Bishop of Habana, Dr. Jeronomino Valdés y Sierra, founder of the Real Casa Cuna.

Plácido, to use his own phrase, was "the tyrant's restless foe" and he early became active in the underground movement for Cuban independence. He and thirty-two of his companions were eventually arrested on the ground that they were conspiring against the white race. This was the so-called *La Escalera* or stairway conspiracy, being so named because the suspects were put through the third-degree while tied head down to a stairway. Plácido and ten of his co-defendants were executed before a firing squad.

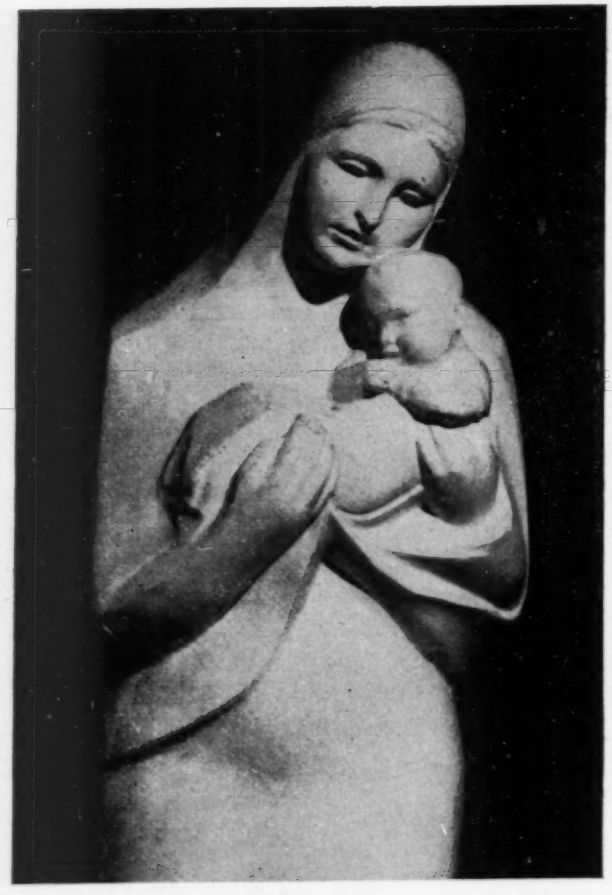


By national consent TEODORO RAMOS BLANCO (1902–) is one of Cuba's foremost sculptors today. He was born in Habana and received his formal art training at the San Alejandro, the Cuban school of fine arts, from which he graduated in 1928. Following his graduation, he became a member of the Cuban national police, serving on the force for eleven and one half years. Recognition came to Ramos when he won in the national competition for a monument to Mariana de Grajales, mother of the Maceos. This gave him his first big chance as an artist and permission to study in Rome for three years. He subsequently visited in France, Spain, and twice in the United States.

Ramos has done a number of portrait-busts of his famous contemporaries, such as Langston Hughes, Nicolás Guillén, and Joe Louis—heads which might be considered memoirs of the time. He has done heads of many historical figures, such as General Antonio Maceo, José Marti, Plácido, Abraham Lincoln, Benito Juárez, and Juan Gualberto Gómez. When Ramos creates a portrait-bust, he chooses his material with care, seemingly preoccupied with the medium as a symbol for the character. His *Plácido, for* example, is in bronze; his *Gómez*, in granite; his *Marti* in marble. Ramos is capable of cutting a statue out of a block of marble or mahogany like a Rodin.

Ramos' technique is finished, adaptable, and definitely expressive of his personality. He thinks in sculptured form as other men do in words and his work in consequence gives a striking impression of vitality. Among moderns, he reminds us of the Ukrainian Aleksandr Arkhipenko and the Roumanian Constantin Brancusi but without their extreme stylistic distortions. Many of his figures are drawn from everyday Cuban life.

Ramos Blanco, besides teaching at the San Alejandro, lives and works sedulously in his combination studio-home at Santa Catalina 506, Habana, Cuba.



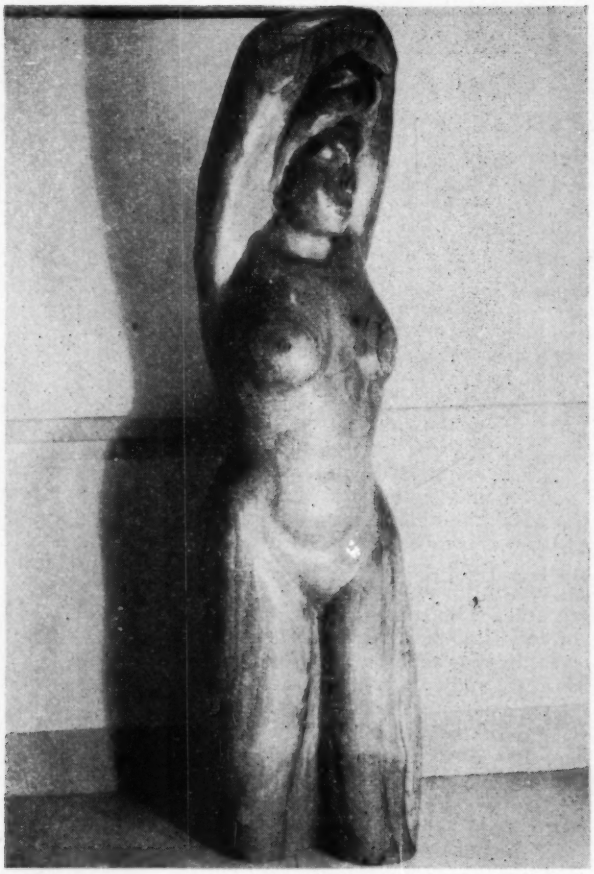
MATERNIDAD
Maternity—panel at the Maternity Workers' Hospital

MATERNIDAD (*Maternity*)

Maternity, 18 feet high, on Mat

PLACIDO
Cuban mulatto poet

NEGRITA *(Little Negro Woman)*



TORSO
Carved directly from mahogany

NEGRA LINDA
Pretty Negro Woman—Terra cotta

MAD
on Maternity Workers' Hospital

Walter White—Courageous Statesman

By Oswald Garrison Villard

A review of Walter White's life story, **A Man Called White,** *by one of the original founders of the NAACP*

THIS is a highly important book,* not merely because Walter White is one of the outstanding Americans, but because of the great cause to which he has devoted himself and has advanced so far. No other man of his race has achieved as much in the field of political and social reform comprised in the relationships of our colored and white fellow-citizens. On that shoal of discord the Republic nearly foundered once and may yet founder if its citizens of white skins refuse to preserve it by rendering exact justice to every other citizen in accord with the provisions of the Constitution and the tenets of human decency and fellowship. This chronicle of Walter White's labors is therefore an historical document of very great and lasting value. It *is* history, most important history, and as such it ought not only to be in every library, but as a textbook wherever the social life, the manners and morals of the Americans are studied.

It was a hard task which Mr. White set himself—how far to confine it to his own deeds and how far to make it a record of the achievements of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He has for so many years personified the work of this organization and borne the brunt of its public campaigns for justice, that it would not have been astounding if he had confused some of his activities with those of the Association and over emphasized his own achievements. He has in the main well avoided these pitfalls and given us a modest and often thrilling record of deeds in which he more than once risked his life for the cause. He has even avoided stressing his friendships with men and women in literary and public life, like the Roosevelts and hosts of others, which, in their importance and intimacy, are without parallel in the advance of our colored Americans. That he has had to utilize the pronoun "I" to a considerable extent is obvious. How else could it be his autobiography?

WALTER WHITE

I well remember that when the proposal to promote Walter White reached the board of directors of the NAACP there was considerable hesitancy about making him the Association's chief executive. We all liked him; it was impossible not to fall for his juvenile serenity, his gaiety, his charm. We were filled with admiration for the supreme courage he had displayed in going South to investigate lynchings and relying on his completely white aspect for safety. We knew that he would win the confidence of those men and women with whom he came into contact. What worried us, however, was the question whether he had the physical stature, the maturity, the depth and the strength to bear the tremendous responsibility for advancing the vital cause we were asked to entrust to him. After most careful consideration he was chosen—but not without some misgivings. Never were doubts less well fortified. He not only showed himself to be an extremely well-rounded and able executive, capable of dispatching a huge amount of business, he proved that he could profoundly impress even those who were most bitterly opposed to all he stood for. We could not then have foreseen an incident (which does not appear in his autobiography) of Walter White's sitting in the Senate visitor's gallery and hearing Jimmy Byrnes, the South Carolina Senator, declare on the floor that it had come to such a pass that this man White could dictate the policy of the Democratic party on certain issues! He was then and still is the foremost and most successful lobbyist in Washington—by this I mean the most succesful legitimate champion of a given cause or group.

Under his guidance and because of the steady rise in cooperation and prosperity of our colored citizens, the Association now has 400,000 members and received in one of the war years no less than $400,000, almost all from colored people and $50,000 from Negro troops at the front. To those of us who planted the seed which has flowered thus that seemed almost incredible, yet we never faltered in our belief that, given adequate and wise leadership, there was no limit to what could be achieved. The demonstration of the truth of this, Mr. White has now

* *A Man Called White.* By Walter White. New York: The Viking Press, 1948. VIII+382pp. $3.75.

brought out; it is thus established beyond doubt for all time. It has, of course, not been his work alone but that of many hands. But the outstanding fact remains that his remarkable personality and courage, his genius for friendship, his steadfast clinging to principle and never to compromising on fundamentals, has played an inestimable part in the victories which have been won. Notable has been, for example, his positive refusal ever to follow any line of opposition to other embattled groups such as the Jews, although he and the cause might temporarily have profited thereby. It was Foch who had for his motto: "Attack, attack, and attack." Walter White's has been similar. If he voiced it, he might have said: "Courage, courage and courage." It has been his unfailing courage and refusal to compromise which have always broken through barriers when that was possible. It was unquestionably that frankness which made General Eisenhower offer Walter White a Lieutenant Colonelcy on his staff (also not recorded in this autobiography) and that has brought him similar offers for new leadership opportunities. These qualities alone stamp Walter White as one of the foremost American statesmen.

My chief criticism of this book lies first in the fact that Mr. White has been quite sparing in his praises of others who have been distinguished in the work of the NAACP except that he has been generous to some associates like Thurgood Marshall, Charles Houston, William H. Hastie and to one white secretary of the NAACP, John R. Shillady whose disablement and death were due to the criminal and unpunished attack upon him in Austin, Texas. But I have looked in vain for any complete characterization of the work for the Association of W.E.B. DuBois (despite a certain temperamental failing), of Dr. Louis T. Wright, and others whose names readily suggest themselves. At times I have even wondered if Walter White, of all men, was not drawing the color line, for, when he speaks of the "penury and peril" which confronted the NAACP, in its early days, he makes little or no mention of such devoted supporters as Mary White Ovington, who gave years of unpaid labor to the Association, and makes only one passing reference to Joel E. Spingarn, who for years carried the very difficult burden of chairman of the organization.

If only to keep the record straight, Walter White might have stated that the great conception of a national fighting organization of whites and colored to combat every form of discrimination against the latter came to three white people, Miss Ovington, Charles Edward Russell and William English Walling. On their initiative the work took shape and, largely through their fostering care, it began its astounding development. White people's money maintained it during its early years until it demonstrated its value, integrity and unselfishness to the colored masses. Only one of the incorporators was a Negro. This is brought out not because of any personal and racial jealousy, but simply that in later years, when the final record of the Association is written, all possible credit for the white founders may be given to them in the ledger in which will be recorded the good as well as the evil deeds of the whites who as a whole have been responsible for centuries of wrong doing, of horrible brutality, endless murders and incredible injustices under the Stars and Stripes.

Still another curious lapse is Mr. White's failure in discussing the Harlem riot of August, 1943, to make any mention of the work done by the committee appointed by Mayor LaGuardia to investigate the riot and to make recommendations how to prevent any recurrence. The committee sat for months, employed a competent technical staff and was especially fortunate in that the cross-examination of many of the witnesses as to what actually took place was conducted by Arthur Garfield Hays. The Mayor did his utmost to suppress this report and finally published it only when compelled to do so by the threat that otherwise it would be given to the press with some very stinging comments on his failure to reveal the facts which had driven the colored population to this mistaken but not wholly inexplicable action. Whether this was just a lapse of memory on Mr. White's part, or an unwillingness to set forth the facts about Mayor LaGuardia's complete ignoring of the committee's documented report, the truth is that the Mayor did practically nothing to improve the condition of the colored people and even promoted the police official chiefly responsible for the very bad police condition to almost the highest rank in the department (he was the first policeman removed by Mayor O'Dwyer). If this investigation was not conducted by the NAACP, neither was the city-wide citizen's committee, to which Mr. White refers, an adjunct of the Association, although Mr. White was for a time one of its co-chairmen.

If Walter White could have been much more generous in his praise and recognition of others, this does not alter the commendation bestowed elsewhere in this review. His book is exciting and often dramatic reading. It reproduces his marvellous courage and his profound faith that the right is certain to triumph. One hears his moving and engaging voice on many pages. Finally, he reeinforces his optimism with the increasing proof that, however much there remains to be done, the battle against senseless prejudice and utterly false theories of race supremacy is, trench by trench, steadily being won.

On to California!

In 1949 the NAACP will be forty years old, and the 40th Annual Conference will meet in Los Angeles, California, beginning Tuesday, July 12, and ending Sunday, July 17.

Branches of the NAACP should begin making plans now to send delegates to this history-making 40th Annual Conference. Begin raising a special fund to send delegates. Put this money aside so that next July your Branch will answer the roll call in Los Angeles.

Remember, the Conference will be in mid-July, not June. Start your arrangements now!

The National Office will announce detailed plans after January 1, but branches should start work without delay.

BEST (AND WORST) P

Courtesy Life & Ebony

ONE OF THE BEST PHOTOS *of the year is this picture of 22-year-old Edith Mae Irby, of Hot Springs, Arkansas, now enrolled in the medical school of the University of Arkansas. When the State of Arkansas decided to comply with the U. S. Supreme Court decision against segregated education, Miss Irby was admitted into this previously all-white school. Vice-president H. Clay Chenault promised that "she will be part of her class, just like any other member." And that she has been ever since her registration last fall. Miss Irby is pictured here in the center of a lecture room seated alphabetically with her classmates.*

PICTURES OF 1948

Wide World

N OUR BOOK *these pictures are the best and the worst news ictures of 1948. The best pictures (of Edith Irby and Gromek-oby) are good because they show that when Americans forget rtificial barriers of "race" they learn that their black or brown ompatriots are human beings just like themselves. They find they an work or study or play as human beings without friction or ny of the other dire results predicted by the racists. The worst icture shows how bigotry perverts even childish innocence. nights of the Klu Klux Klan, out of fear that the little tot will ot learn fast enough, introduce her early to its bed-sheet shenani-ans, its vicious racism, and its viperous hatreds.*

After scalping the Braves, happy and smiling pitcher Steve romek [above] and centerfielder Larry Doby (right) of the Cleve-nd Indians hug one another after their 2-1 win over the Boston raves in th fourth game of the 1948 World Series at Cleveland, hio. Doby's "homer" provided the margin of victory and Gromek as the winning pitcher.

In the worst picture [→] a small girl, wearing the traditional u Klux Klan regalia, makes her appearance at the city auditorium Macon, Georgia, December 10, 1948, during a mass initiation of o candidates into the hooded order. About 150 women were ong the masked group.

V56 1 JAN 49 UMI

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

SEGREGATION

NAACP To Appeal Virginia Ruling: A review by the United States Supreme Court of the December decision of the Virginia Circuit Court of Appeals denying damages to Mrs. Adeline Atwell Day, 67-year-old Syracuse woman who claimed she was wrongfully ejected from a Greyhound bus in South Hill, Va., will be sought by attorneys.

Mrs. Day stopped over in Richmond, Va., on her way from her home in Syracuse, N. Y., to Winterhaven, Fla. From Richmond to South Hill she rode beside a white passenger and when she refused to move to the rear at the request of the bus driver, local police officers were called to remove her from the bus and place her under arrest. Mrs. Day's suit for $25,000 damages was lost in a district court and was carried to the three-judge appellate court which in December affirmed the judgment of the lower court.

Judge Morris A. Soper handed down the opinion that "the adoption of a reasonable regulation by an interstate carrier for the segregation of passengers does not violate the law as laid down by the Supreme Court."

Judge Soper himself stated that the decision left unanswered the most important legal question of whether racial segregation in common carriers contravenes the principles of common law and violates the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution. NAACP attorneys Oliver W. Hill, Martin A. Martin, and Spottswood W. Robinson III, who represented Mrs. Day, declared that the case will be appealed to the Supreme Court.

Hearings on Bias Fight: Hearings on a suit attacking the right of Stuyvesant Town, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's tax-exempt housing project, to bar Negro tenants began in December before the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court.

Charles Abrams, attorney for the Negro plaintiffs and for Shad Polier, suing as a taxpayer, presented the argument on behalf of the NAACP, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the American Jewish Congress, joint sponsors of the suit. Samuel Seabury, representing the Metropolitan, argued that owners of Stuyvesant Town are free to exclude tenants on the basis of race despite the project's tax-exempt status in the City of New York.

Mervin Hill

WINNING DIVISION *in the 1948 annual membership campaign of the St. Louis, Mo., branch: Left to right, seated, Louise Reaves, secretary; Fannie Pitts, chairman; Julia Siler, campaign manager. Standing, Lawrence Taylor, Christine Brown, Gordon Pitts, Jesse Abbington, Mildred Nero, Edward Meekins, John Cherry, and Levatrice Singfield.*

A group of ten church, labor, and civic organizations, filing an *amicus curiae* brief, supported the NAACP, the ACLU and the AJC in the suit and claimed that the right to equal opportunity to secure housing is a civil right protected by the federal constitution and the constitution of the state of New York. The organizations filing the brief are: The Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches, the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches of the USA, New York City Congregational Church Association, the Society for Ethical Culture of the City of New York, the Commission on Christian Social Relations of the Diocese of New York, the New York State CIO Council, the League of Women Shoppers, Inc., the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League to Champion Human Rights, Inc., the Urban League of Greater New York, Inc., and the United Neighborhood Houses, Inc.

Another *amicus curiae* brief was filed in behalf of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council of New York, Inc., which presented further legal arguments in support of the position that Negroes must be admitted as tenants to the project.

Continue School Equality Fight: Another case in the fight against denial of equal educational opportunities to Negroes in southern states will be brought to trial on behalf of Lyman T. Johnson, who seeks admission to the graduate school of the University of Kentucky. The trial will come before the United States District Court in Lexington, Ky., on January 4.

Attorneys also are considering the possibility of appealing to the United States Supreme Court the recent Oklahoma federal court decision upholding segregation of G. W. McLaurin at the University of Oklahoma. McLaurin has been attending the graduate school on a completely segregated basis since an October 16 court ruling forced the university to admit him.

If the McLaurin case is carried to the Supreme Court, it will be heard at

approximately the same time as the case of Heman Sweatt, who has been denied admission to the University of Texas law school solely because he is a Negro. Sweatt refused to enroll in a makeshift jim-crow law school on grounds that it did not furnish equal educational facilities.

The similar case of Mrs. Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, who has been denied a legal education at the University of Oklahoma, is still pending in the courts of Oklahoma.

POLITICAL

South Carolina Democratic Primary: A request for a permanent injunction guaranteeing Negroes the right to vote in South Carolina Democratic primary elections, brought before the federal district court in Columbia by the Association, has been taken under advisement after hearings held in November.

In response to a petition presented by attorneys for the NAACP on behalf of David Brown and other qualified Negro voters, Judge J. Waties Waring granted a preliminary injunction on July 16 prohibiting racial discrimination at the polls.

The NAACP lawyers had charged that officials of the South Carolina Democratic party sought to keep Negroes from voting by barring them from membership in Democratic clubs, and by requiring that voters present Democratic club registration certificates at the polls. Every member of the Democratic party had been required to take an oath to uphold racial segregation and oppose federal fair employment practices legislation.

The NAACP now seeks a permanent injunction to replace the preliminary injunction requiring the State Democratic party to enroll Negroes with full rights to participate in party affairs.

FBI Urged to Probe Georgia Violence: The Department of Justice has been asked to conduct a thorough and comprehensive investigation into the reign of terror in southeast Georgia which culminated in the lynching of Robert Mallard following the wanton slaying of Isaac Nixon and the brutal assault upon D. V. Carter, all of whom dared to assert their political rights despite the warnings of displeased whites.

In a letter to Attorney General Tom Clark, Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, recounted recent instances of mob violence in the adjacent Georgia counties of Montgomery and Toombs. Mr. Marshall indicated that at least one white man, Johnnie Johnson, was implicated in both the murder of Nixon and the attack upon Carter.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE *of the Albuquerque, New Mexico, branch: L. to R., A. L. Mitchell, Strother, Herman Loftis, Mrs. Marjorie Bebb, Omar Blair, drive chairman; Rev. Jerry W. Ford, Dorothy Ingram, Morris Johnson, and Hobart LaGrone, branch president.*

"These three incidents of brutality and murder against Negro citizens of Georgia, all occurring within a few weeks of one another and in the same general area, seem to establish a pattern of violence which deserves immediate and vigorous investigation," wrote Mr. Marshall. "May we urge your Department to take whatever steps it feels warranted to bring those individuals guilty of these charges to justice so that Negroes in this and other communities may feel secure . . . in the right to participate in the electoral process."

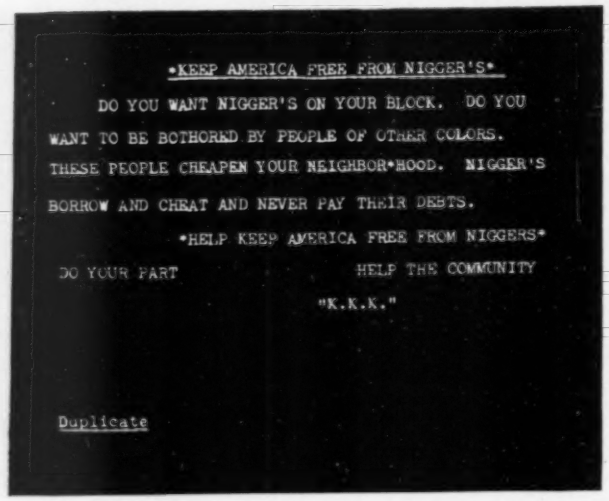
Mallard's widow, Mrs. Amy James Mallard, has taken refuge in Savannah under the protection of Rev. Ralph

Herald-News

FORMAL PRESENTATION *of charter to the newly organized NAACP branch at Ridgewood, N. J., November, 1948, in a ceremony held at the AME Zion church. Left to right, Mayor Frederick A. Demarest of Glen Rock; Mayor Clarence N. Malone of Ridgewood; Gloster B. Current, branch director NAACP, presenting the charter to Ellen Thompsom, branch president; Josiah Conwell of Camden, main speaker for the occasion; Rev. David Bradley, pastor of AME Zion; and Rev. Charles Tartar of Paterson, master of ceremonies.*

Anonymous Note:

Alledgedly distributed in Long Branch
by KKK prior to Integration.



•KEEP AMERICA FREE FROM NIGGER'S•

DO YOU WANT NIGGER'S ON YOUR BLOCK. DO YOU WANT TO BE BOTHORED BY PEOPLE OF OTHER COLORS. THESE PEOPLE CHEAPEN YOUR NEIGHBOR•HOOD. NIGGER'S BORROW AND CHEAT AND NEVER PAY THEIR DEBTS.

•HELP KEEP AMERICA FREE FROM NIGGERS•

DO YOUR PART HELP THE COMMUNITY

"K.K.K."

Duplicate

THESE THROWAWAYS *are alleged to have been distributed in Long Branch, N. J., during the fight for integration of Negroes in the local schools.* *See page 12.*

M. Gilbert, president of the Georgia State Conference of NAACP branches.

RETIFICATION

Loyalty Purge Victim Reinstated: A veteran of World War II who had been suspended from his job at Oakland Naval Supply Center on charges of alleged disloyalty, was reinstated in December after an appeal made on his behalf by the Association.

Robert Lee Jackson, a laborer at the Naval Supply Center, had been discharged by a loyalty board which charged him with attending two meetings sponsored by members of the Communist party.

The decision of the local board was reversed in an appeal before the Navy Department Loyalty Appeal Board, at which Mr. Jackson was represented by Jesse O. Dedmond, Jr., NAACP secretary of veterans' affairs. Mr. Jackson has been restored to duty on orders from the Secretary of the Navy.

SCAD Orders Sandhog Rehired: In response to NAACP demands that the New York State Commission Against Discrimination enforce its order for the reinstatement of Curtis Chaney, Negro sandhog discharged from his job on the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel project after he had filed bias complaints against his construction company employers, SCAD Commissioner E. E. Edwards on December 9 ordered Chaney put to work immediately.

This order followed a complaint that despite an earlier agreement by the George H. Flinn Corp. to re-hire Chaney, he was told when he reported for work that no instructions to re-employ him had been received from the company's main office.

What the Branches Are Doing

CALIFORNIA: The INDIO branch recently held a mass meeting to boost memberships in the branch. Among the speakers were Mayor Clarence Washburn of Indio, Homer Varner, James I. Easley, Levi L. Carlile and Mrs. Blossie Adams.

A seven-member committee of the branch—consisting of Mrs. Ethel Mayfield, Luther Weaver, Mrs. Lula Kelley, Mrs. Emma Lee Weaver, and Otis Underwood—met with the Indio city council on October 20, 1948, to ask for a city ordinance against the display of such discriminatory signs as "We do not serve colored trade" in local restaurants. After a lengthy discussion by councilmen and citizens, both white and colored, the council approved unanimously a motion urging Indio cafe owners and others to remove such signs.

GEORGIA: D. V. Carter, president of the MONTGOMERY COUNTY branch has sent, as of December 2, 1948, copies of the following letter to all NAACP branch presidents:

"Dear Fellow Branch President:

"The story of what happened to me on the day of the 1948 Georgia Democratic primary election will interest every NAACP branch president who is fighting to secure for our people the democratic rights guaranteed them by the Constitution of the United States.

"I have been president of the Montgomery County, Georgia branch of the NAACP for more than two years. In 1946, when our branch was organized, very few of our people registered and voted in Montgomery county. Our members worked very hard at getting out the voters, and as a result between five and six hundred Negroes registered for the recent Democratic primary. To help these citizens exercise this right to vote, I made it my business to take as many of them as possible to the polls in my automobile on September 8, the primary election day.

"But there are white men in Georgia who do not know the meaning of the Constitution of the United States; men who use violence to prevent their Negro neighbors from acting as citizens. It was a group of these men which attacked me on my way home from the polls on September 8, beating me with iron bars until I was bloody, breaking my wrist, and ordering me at the point of a gun to go home and not to be caught hauling any more people to the polls. While the beating was taking place, my assailants paused only to wave at passers-by. One of these was a candidate for sheriff in the county.

"In this same county, a 28-year-old Negro veteran named Isaac Nixon was murdered in front of his wife and children by two white men who resented the fact that he dared to vote in the same primary election. One of the murderers was the same man who beat me, a man well known in the county for violence against Negroes. This man was judged 'not guilty' by an all-white Georgia jury trying him for murder.

"I have not been in Montgomery county since I fled after the election day beating. I am taking refuge in Atlanta, but I fear for the lives of my wife and ten children who have had to remain in Montgomery county because there is no place for them here.

"The NAACP has referred this matter to the FBI and has done everything possible to help us. But the NAACP needs the assis-

PRESIDENT *Henry Sewing (at desk) of Douglass State bank, Kansas City, Kan., conferring with James Browne, vice-president, and Ephraim Ewing, cashier.*

DALLAS NATIONAL BANK
Dallas, Texas

$ 24.00 Dallas, Texas, 11-22 1948 No. 3[illegible]

Pay to the order of Mrs. Willie Caraway

the sum of Twenty four and no/100 - - - - - DOLLARS

out of the Equalization Fund of Dallas County Schools, for Transportation Mildred Caraway - District #51 to Dallas - 2 months ending November 5, 1948

Joe P. Harris, County Supt.
By K. McLamb
Approved 11-22 1948

[signature], Pres.
Joe P. Harris, Secy.
By K. McLamb
County Board of School Trustees,
Dallas County, Texas.

NEGRO CITIZENS *of Somers, Texas, were flabbergasted in November when they began getting checks from the Dallas county school board in amounts varying from $18 to $46.80 as compensation for bus transportation which parents had paid for their children out of their own pockets. This is the first time on record that a southern school board has done this in face of litigation for equal school facilities. See Texas branch item, page 26.*

tance of all its branches in preventing this kind of thing from happening again. If we are to secure strong branch presidents to carry forward our program, they must know that the whole Association backs them up as they fight in the 'front line' trenches in places like Georgia.

"Many of you are presidents of branches much bigger and stronger than ours in Montgomery county. Will your branch send a contribution to the national office to back up our fight? We in the South will keep on fighting. We are not afraid. But we want to know that our great organization is behind us."

NEW YORK: The NEW ROCHELLE branch presented Mrs. Sarah Brown, dramatic soprano, in concert at the Albert Leonard high school on November 4, 1948, for the benefit of the branch educational fund.

OHIO: Attorney G. Cornelius White was elected president of the CINCINNATI branch at its annual meeting on November 28. Attorney White, a member of the executive committe and for three years chairman of the veterans committee, is a member of the law firm of Berry, McClain and White. Other officers elected were Andrew Merriweather, first vice-president; Mrs. Theodore Walker, second vice-president; Mrs. M. M. Cordell, secretary; Mrs. Mary Rozier, assistant secretary; and Stanley Dixon, treasurer.

The Cincinnati city council unanimously approved a non-discriminatory amendment to a resolution on a proposed city-owned housing project. This action was warmly praised by the branch.

A suit for $50,000 in damages and costs has been brought against the Cincinnati branch and four of its officers by a waitress who contends that she was falsely arrested on a charge under the Ohio civil rights law of refusal to serve colored customers. The suit names Robert Hubbard, second vice president of the branch; Edgar Schwab, president of the advanced youth council; Marilyn Jordan, chairman of the youth work committee; Lester P. Bailey, executive secretary, and "all other members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People."

Margaret Boots, the waitress, was employed at Graeter's, 629 Walnut St., when Miss Jordan and Mr. Hubbard sought to get service there on December 3, 1947. The two officers visited Graeter's after a number of complaints had been registered at the local branch office by colored citizens who charged that they had been denied service there. When the waitress refused to serve Miss Jordan and Mr. Hubbard, the latter swore to a warrant for her arrest. Mr. Schwab witnessed the refusal and testified to that effect at the subsequent trial. Attorney for the waitress had asked for a trial by jury; she was acquitted of the charge in Judge Daniel C. Handley's municipal court on April 29, 1948.

This was the third case to be filed against the management of Graeter's, or its employees. All three were heard by juries which handed down verdicts of "not guilty" in each case. After the third trial, in which Margaret Boots was the defendant, all Graeter's confectionaries began serving colored customers.

The branch officials named in the fifty-

CAMDEN, N. J., BRANCH CAMPAIGNERS—*Seated, L. to R.: Mrs. Virginia Sterrett, Herbert Nix, Lillian Goings, Dr. Ulysses Wiggins, branch president; Mrs. Catherine Johnson, and Walter Gordon. Standing: Mrs. Christine Hazelwood, Walter Williams, Mrs. Estella Ashley, Robert Hazelwood, membership chairman; Beatrice Morris, Mrs. Pearl Thompson, Mrs. Ruth Richardson, and Josiah Conwell.*

Wide World

HARVARD'S NEW FOOTBALL CAPTAIN AND MANAGER—*Howie Houston (right) 22, of Haverhill, Mass., and Frank Jones (left) 20-year-old Negro of Greensboro, N. C., were elected captain and student football manager, respectively, of the 1949 Harvard football team. Harvard coach Art Valpey is in center. Jones is the first Negro ever to be named to the post, succeeding Dwight K. Nishimura, a Japanese.*

thousand-dollar suit have been active in a number of civil rights cases in Cincinnati and been accredited with "opening" many local restaurants to Negro patrons.

TEXAS: Many parents of the SOMERS community near Dallas, which recently filed a suit against the Dallas county school board seeking equal school facilities for Negro children, are wearing broad smiles these days since their litigation has had the unique result of returning hard dollars and cents to their pockets.

This unusual development resulted when the school board scurrying mightly in a desperate last minute effort to correct inequalities before the case actually reached trial, mailed checks to parents of high-school children, who must journey sixteen miles to Dallas for school, reimbursing them for monies spent by their children while traveling by regular public bus. These checks, coming to some dozen or more parents in November, 1948, were in amounts from $18 to $46.80, varying in size according to the number of children involved and the regularity of their school attendance.

The school board has also met specific items on the plaintiff's complaint by supplying desks for teachers, blackboards, and other equipment for the school rooms, and is at present having a well dug on the school grounds to furnish water. It is understood that a school bus is being bought to transport the high-school children to Dallas and the grade-school children from the surrounding community to Sowers. The Sowers case is under the direction of Attorney W. J. Durham and U. Simpson Tate, NAACP resident and regional special counsel, respectively.

What the Regions Are Doing

WEST COAST: The Stockton, California, branch, held a mass meeting recently to raise funds to be used toward fighting a civil rights case against a tavern in which five members of the branch were refused service. Interest in the membership campaign has increased considerably as a result of this civil rights case and every member has pledged to bring in ten members each before the end of the drive.

Other activities of the branch include the chartering of a booth at the recent Stockton Fair for the purpose of distributing literature on work of the NAACP, and the appointing of a Christmas seals committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Lloyd Buchanan.

MONTEREY: The regional office was advised by Mrs. Ruby Frazier, secretary, of the activities of the branch in working up sufficient public sentiment against the setting up of a "Harlem Village" for colored only by the Monterey Bay Realty Company so that the project was dropped in less than forty-eight hours after the advertisement appeared in the local newspapers.

SAN FRANCISCO: On October 26, N. W. Griffin, regional secretary of San Francisco, visited San Louis Obispo and conducted a meeting to organize a branch of the NAACP. Luther T. Taylor and Mrs. Annabelle Jones Warren were instrumental in arousing interest among citizens and arranging for the meeting. Plans were drawn up by the group, assisted by Mr. Griffin, for an organization and election meeting to be held early in November. Fifty-one members have been secured to date.

SAN DIEGO: N. W. Griffin, regional secretary, was guest speaker for the NAACP youth council in San Diego recently and held conferences with officers and the executive committee of the senior branch.

The youth council, directed by Gordon Stafford, senior adviser, has successfully put into operation a program that has opened up restaurants and cafes to the public without discrimination because of color. They have even extended their campaign to the hotels and have secured a written agreement with the U. S. Grant Hotel, the largest in San Diego, to the effect it will not discriminate against patrons in granting hotel space. While discrimination is contrary to law in California many places still do not abide by the statute.

PHOENIX: The branch in Phoenix, Arizona, under the direction of Rev. L. B. Nelson, president, has just completed a two-day interracial conference. The first day was under the guidance of adults of the branch, and on the second day youth from the colleges and high schools were in charge. Plans are now under way for organization of an NAACP college chapter at the University of Arizona.

SOUTHWEST REGION: The Ballot: As a result of an awareness of the effectiveness of the ballot which the regional office has assisted state offices and other cooperating organizations in creating, it is now generally conceded that—

IN LOUISIANA: Negroes played an extremely large part, particularly in the local phase of recent elections. Branch leaders in Lake Charles, Baton Rouge, Ruston, Monroe, Shreveport, and other communities report that the Negro vote swung into offices entire slates of local nominees endorsed by Negroes.

IN ARKANSAS: an estimated 20,000 Negroes voted, and Arkansas leaders aver that the prohibitive majority voted for gubernatorial candidate Sid McMath, considered an outstanding liberal. McMath won by 10,000 votes. The Negro vote also played a prominent part in carrying the state for President Truman.

IN TEXAS: some 200,000 Negroes voted. Effectiveness of the Texas Negro vote is evidenced by the Dallas vote, where two predominantly Negro precincts gave Truman a 2000-vote plurality over all opponents. Truman carried Dallas by only 1500 votes.

IN OKLAHOMA: Negroes, voting freely all over the state, are given credit for contributing decisively to the reelection of President Truman and the election of Robert Kerr as Senator.

NEW JERSEY: The Camden branch closed its 1948 membership campaign with a victory meeting of workers on Monday evening, November 29, at the South Camden YMCA. At this time is was announced by Rufus W. Smith, campaign director from the national office, that the goal of 3,000 had been exceeded.

Robert Hazelwood was the membership chairman while Mrs. Catherine P. Johnson, Lillian A. Goings, Herbert Nix, and Walter Gordon served as division leaders. Honor Panca awards were presented to the highest individual solicitors. The workers so honored were Dr. U. S. Wiggins 192; Mrs. Gertrude Williams, 169; Mrs. Bertha Morris, 127; Beatrice Morris, 100; Mrs. Estelle Ashley, 73; and Mrs. Birdie Collins, 65. Panca awards for securing 30 or more members were given to Dr. B. S. Waugh, Mesdames Edna Blakely, Marian G. Brown, Christine Hazelwood, Alyce T. Wiggins, Pearl Thompson, Rose Smith, Anna Harmon, Ora Taylor, Mabel Searles, Carolyn Godfrey, Louisa Coleman, Myrtle F. J. Jones, Margaret Hall, Hettie Jones, Minnie Harding, Anna B. Peel, Mary Moore, and Elizabeth Jones; Misses Anna Bond, Helen Spencer and Eunice Willians, as well as David White, Bennie White, and Lennard Miller of the youth council.

Mr. Smith expressed appreciation to the branch for its excellent cooperation and presented citations to the division leaders as well as to Walter Williams, Nathaniel Pitts, A. E. Flournoy Rev. Roscoe Devereaux, Mrs. Virginia P. Sterrett, Mrs. Irene Wright, Mrs. Juanita Dicks, and Mrs. Sylvia Phillips for outstanding services.

At the conclusion of the victory meeting, Dr. U. S. Wiggins, president, presented a farewell gift to the campaign director on behalf of the Camden branch.

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Book Review

AUX ETATS-UNIS

***L'Amerique Au Jour Le Jour.* Par Simone de Beauvoir. Paris: Editions Paul Morihien, 1948. 390pp.**

Some of the worst travel books ever written on the United States seem to be the product of Frenchmen. The reason is that their authors came to America with very rudimentary notions about American life and history and their books suffered in consequence. Many of them approached the American scene in much the same spirit of tendentious whites writing about Negroes; that is, in terms of the exotic, the comic, the absurd. Duhamel's *Scenes de la vie future*, despite its many penetrating observations, is a good example of this type of *reportage*. Dubrueil's *Standards*, on the other hand, is probably the best book on America ever written by a Frenchman. Simone de Beauvoir's *America Day By Day*, which is dedicated to Ellen and Richard Wright, lies somewhere between these two extremes.

Simone de Beauvoir, a leading existentialist and collaborator of Jean-Paul Sartre on *Les Temps Modernes*, spent four months during 1947 traveling and lecturing around the country in colleges and towns. She warns in her preface that she spent only four months (from January 25, 1947, to May 20, 1947) in the United States, moved about as chance and pleasure dictated, and therefore missed vast areas of the country. She visited none of our large industries. She saw none of our great technical achievements. She had no contacts with the working classes. She did not penetrate the higher echelons of business or politics. Her aim is to show simply how America revealed itself day by day (her book is in the form of a travel diary) to one inquiring mind.

What seems to make the greatest impression on our author is our healthy friendliness and cordiality. "This coin of course," she explains, "has its reverse. I am annoyed by the insistent command 'to look always at the good side of life,' repeated by word and picture the livelong day. We see the injunction on signboards advertising Quaker Oats, Coca-Cola, or Lucky Strikes. What a display of white teeth; the rictal smile; the constipated

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young woman glancing amorously at the lemon juice which relaxes her bowels. These smiles follow me like an obsession. . . . I read a placard in a drug store: 'Not to grin is to sin.' Optimism is so necessary to the social tranquility and economic prosperity of this country. . . . Good will is the universal panacea."

She goes on: "Regardless of what I think about American ideologies I shall always have a warm spot in my heart for her taxi-drivers, her shoe-shine boys, her newsdealers, all those people who suggest by their daily conduct that men can be brothers. They create a climate of confidence, gaiety and friendship around them. They prove that a man's neighbor need not *a priori* be his enemy. . . . There is a genuine human warmth in the American people."

She remarks, however, that America is tough on her intellectuals. "There is little discussion of ideas in this country." Elsa Maxwell incarnates for her "all the defects of America without any of its virtues."

Many American habits, customs, and practices she found very disconcerting. To the author our lowly "nickel" was a magic coin. It opened telephones and doors to those private retreats modestly called 'rest rooms.'" Drug stores fascinated her and she would step into one on the slightest pretext. She found much more personality in our cemeteries than in our cities, and our birthday parties struck her as having all the dignity of a public ceremony. "It seems that the birth of each citizen must be a national event." "The first time I bought the Sunday edition of the *New York Times*," she remarks, "I thought I was making the mistake of taking away a whole pile of papers to find to my astonishment when I got home that I had only one newspaper. I even had trouble manipulating such a mass of paper on weekdays."

Since the author spent much of her time speaking before college audiences, she has a good deal to say about American students. While lecturing at Vassar she noticed that the girls were "dressed like boys and painted like tarts." At Randolph Macon in Virginia a teacher with a strong sense of democratic justice explained that it was "impossible to win out against the stubbornly held racial prejudices of her students." At Wellesley she took an old French woman teacher aside and questioned her about the sexual morals of the girls. Were they so promiscuous, as she had heard, that one often found *monceaux de préservatifs* in certain parts of the campus? La *Française* replied: "Sur le campus, je ne sais pas; quelquefois dans les livres. . . ." Much of the brilliant culture of schools like Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Columbia, she feels, is wasted on their students. Our schools, she thinks, turn out specialists but fail to form the mind and spirit.

Of the many disconcerting things she encountered in America, our treatment of the Negro seemed the most disturbing. She found our humanism tempered with racism, the great American *malaise*. Though many of her views on "the problem" are refreshing they are hardly novel or penetrating. She admits that her experience and knowledge are too limited to handle such a "vast subject." Even her most extended continuous comments (pages 240-252) are largely a rehash of Myrdal.

She remarks that if one pushes a racist to the last ditch he is likely to come out with what he regards as the crushing retort: "Would you want your daughter or sister to marry a nigger?" She says that when Rita Hayworth was asked this question, Rita snorted: "But you wouldn't try to stop your daughter from marrying according to her own tastes, would you?" In this case the person who asked the question had no daughter. "Then I was struck by the antediluvian nature of such a question in a country where young girls go ahead and get married without asking anyone's advice. Despite the concrete nature of the question, it is absolutely theoretical. What it expresses is the repugnance of the average American male at the idea that a white woman may have sexual relations with a Negro man."

After commenting upon the relationship of Jews and Negroes as reciprocal groups and in their relations to Americans in general, she points out that the average Jew regards Negroes much as any other white would. Because of the prejudice leveled against them many Jews hold aloof from Negroes out of fear of added insult. She notes that many Negroes are anti-semitic as a result of their experiences with Jewish merchants and landlords. Jews, however, play an important role in all anti-racist campaigns and organizations. Common prejudice does create a certain affinity between the two groups, Jews and Negroes.

"Of course I wanted to see Harlem. . . . Harlem is a complete society with its middle class, its workers, its rich and its poor. . . . And the unreasonable hatred which the section inspires in many whites is a species of remorse. . . . Whites who do not have the courage of human brotherhood deny this rent in the very bosom of their city; they deny Harlem and try to forget it. . . . And because I am white whatever I may think or say or do will not remove this curse from my heart. . . . I have no right to stroll in these streets where the very color of my eyes means injustice, arrogance, and hate." On most of her trips to the Savoy, Harlem churches, and night clubs she was shepherded by Richard Wright and his wife. She says she was struck by the social content of Rev. Adam Powell Jr.'s sermon and that the services reminded her more of a political than a religious meeting.

Simone de Beauvoir offers us a richly varied and nourishing dish, making up in freshness of observation for what she lacks in depth of understanding.

J.W.I.

Negro Children On School Strike

SINCE mid-May of last year, no Negro child of elementary school age in the town of Merriam, Kansas, a small community on the outskirts of Kansas City, Kansas, has attended public school. This has resulted from the following set of facts.

In the community of Merriam, the South Park School District No. 90 built a new $90,000 school with all modern conveniences and then limited attendance to white pupils only. Negro children in the community were required to attend the Walker School, a dilapitated, unsanitary, two-room affair with outside toilets, no kindergarten facilities, no gymnasium and no auditorium accommodations. The South Park school has nine regular teachers and one part-time, with grades ranging from one to eight. On the other hand, the Walker School had only two teachers, each of whom taught four grades. Neither of the two Negro teachers had professional degrees.

Since there is no law in the state of Kansas requiring the segregation of the races in a community of this type, the Negro citizens of Merriam organized a branch of the NAACP and instituted a mandamus action before the supreme court of the state to require the officials of the school district to admit Negroes to the new shool along with the white students. Under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Alphonso Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Turner, and Thomas Black, all Negroes, and Mrs. Esther E. Brown, a white member of the Kansas state conference of branches of the NAACP, the whole Negro parent community agreed to keep their children out of school until the doors of the new building were opened to them on a basis equal with those of the white children.

In order that their children might not suffer from the lack of instruction during the strife, two qualified Negro teachers were hired by the parents. The parents paid them out of their meager wages in order to keep their children up-to-date in their school work. Some of the parents have contributed their homes for class use. The teachers are working at the small salary of $100 a month and it has been a real struggle for these parents to raise funds to pay them. The school board has been doing everything possible to delay a final decision. A commissioner was appointed to hear testimony, taken early in the fall of this year. Since that time, however, various reasons have been given by him to delay his report to the supreme court of the state, and it now appears that these parents will have to wait until March of next year before obtaining a decision from the courts.

In the interim, the struggle to pay the teachers and continue the education of the children while awaiting their fight for educational equality has been very difficult, since there is little money to be found among these parents. Nevertheless, their spirit has been high until recently when it looked as though it would be impossible for them to continue to pay the two teach-

ers. Two of the mothers have been baking cup cakes and selling them at fifty cents a dozen. Others have been collecting old newspapers and clothing and selling them, turning the receipts from such activity over to the common fund for the purpose of continuing their children's education.

FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS

Building a Bank

(*Continued from page 14*)

Smith and Miss Emma Brady, were recruited from the building and loan association.

The Douglass State Bank is the fourteenth Negro owned and operated bank in the United States, and the second north of the Mason and Dixon line. Mr. Sewing feels that a good start has been made in helping his people to secure their share of the desirable business of the city and the community in which they live.

"With the help of God we hope to serve our fellow men in every way possible, and to this task our lives are dedicated." This is Mr. Sewing's motto.

Exit Jim-Crow

(*Continued from page 13*)

Commenting on the progress of the program to date, Dr. Wiggins has said:

> Our beginning has been very good in spots; in fact, better than we expected, but we want everything to which we are entitled under the law.

State Activity Helpful

In their efforts to end jim-crow in New Jersey schools, NAACP branches had the sympathetic cooperation of the state "FEPC." Administration of the fair employment practices law in the state is placed in the Division Against Discrimination, a subordinate agency of the State Department of Education. The division consists of a commissioner and a council of seven members. The work of the division is done by Mr. Joseph Bustard and several assistants. Local advisory councils which have the duty of studying problems of discrimination and fostering good will through community programs, cooperation, and conciliation, have also proved helpful in recommending action to the parent group and other state agencies.

These local councils and the Division Against Discrimination played an important role in the elimination of segregation in the schools throughout the state. After completion of the Jensen survey, a statewide committee of the NAACP met with representatives of the Division Against Discrimination in June, 1947. The division was asked to enforce the state "FEPC law" as it related to segregation in education. Dr. Wiggins of Camden, served as NAACP spokesman. After hearing the arguments of the NAACP committee, the council adopted a resolution opposing segregation in education. Moreover, it is reported that many members of the state "FEPC" council were also delegates to the constitutional convention which was to meet later and write a new constitution. Members of the "FEPC" council, along with delegate Oliver Randolph, of Newark, pressed for the inclusion of a definite statement in the constitution, which was finally adopted in the following form, September 10, 1947:

> No person shall be denied the enjoyment of any civil right or military right, nor be discriminated against in the exercise of any civil or military right, nor be segregated in the militia or in the public schools, because of religious principles, race, color, ancestry or nation origin.

Following the adoption by the electorate of the constitution on November 4, 1947, Governor Driscoll issued a statement that the new constitution meant what it said and ordered each agency and department to observe it to the letter and spirit of the law.

One of the first official acts under the law was the elimination of the word "colored" from the name of the state's manual training school at Bordentown. The deletion was urged by the State Board of Education, and a bill, introduced by Assemblyman James A. Curtis of Newark, a former president of the Newark branch of the NAACP, was adopted by the legislature.

The job of eliminating segregation from the schools was immediately turned over to the state "FEPC." Utilizing NAACP data gathered in the Jensen survey, as well as information gathered through its own investigations, the Division Against Discrimination went to work. It examined fifty-two school districts in ten counties and found segregation still in existence. Field representatives from the division made from one to three visits to these districts, meeting with officials and seeking compliance with the new state constitution. The net results by June, 1948, showed that in nine of the districts there was still segregation in the schools as a result of the residential patterns. In forty-three districts, however, there were definite segregatory policies in operation.

Of the forty-three jim-crow districts, thirty committed themselves to comply with the state law and eliminate segregation. Mr. Bustard reports that the majority of these are carrying out their promises in good faith. Nine districts committed themselves to eliminate segregation in varying degrees. Some of these took partial steps by the beginning of the fall term in 1948, and promised to take additional steps by September, 1949.

Open defiance of the law and of the "FEPC" has been noted in four districts. It has been learned from authoritative sources that three of these districts are the Elk Township, Mt. Holly, and Cinnaminson Township districts. The Elk Township school board, after consultation with the Division Against Discrimination, passed a resolution reaffirming its policy of segregation. The Cinnaminson Township Board not only admitted that segregation existed, but after a visit from a representative of the division, passed a resolution ending segregation. Later the board rescinded this action under force of unfavorable public opinion, and voted to continue its policy of segregation for the remainder of the 1948 term, and also in 1949.

The program of integration has proceeded very satisfactorily, says Mr. Bustard, when you consider the many towns which have done a wholehearted job of mixing the students and integrating the teachers. Among the communities where integration has been accomplished are Beverly, Bordentown, Burlington, Florence, Princeton, Mt. Laurel, Palmyra, Riverside, Salem and Freehold, all without incidents of any kind.

There are still a few unsolved problems and a few recalcitrant school districts in the state. Considering the previous adamant attitude of boards of education in some of the cities forced to change their policies last year, the experience of New Jersey in democratizing its school systems greatly strengthens the hands of those who argue for the immediate end of segregated schools everywhere, including the South. Fearful of job loss and status, a few short-sighted Negro teachers and principals, at first, opposed the program. But integration has been achieved, and Negro teachers and administrators have benefited. In several instances mixed schools have colored principals.

It took the citizens of New Jersey sixty-six years to get around to overhauling their school system and abolishing jim-crow. Two years ago white and Negro children passed each other on the way to segregated schools in many counties. Today, these children walk arm in arm to the same school, sit side by side in classrooms, and are taught the concepts of democracy under conditions conducive to a practicable understanding of this ideal.

LEGAL DIRECTORY

The following directory of some of the many colored lawyers in this country is carried in response to numerous inquiries from readers desiring to contact attorney outside their home towns. The Crisis maintains no legal bureau, and the N.A.A.C.P. handles only cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizen rights.

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